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JC18 Rec'd PC7/PTO 05 JUL 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

OKAWA et al.

Atty. Ref.: 1226-95

Serial No. Unknown

Group:

Filed: July 5, 2001

Examiner:

For: BRANCHED POLYACETAL RESIN COMPOSITION

\* \* \* \* \*

July 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination,  
please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously  
presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

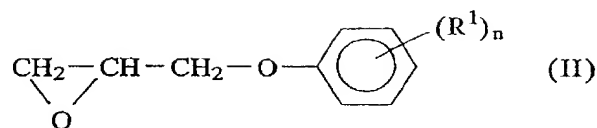
3. (Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the branched polyacetal  
copolymer (A) is prepared by a copolymerization of 100 parts by weight of trioxane (a), 0.001 to  
10 parts by weight of a monofunctional glycidyl compound (b-1) and 0 to 20 parts by weight of a  
cyclic ether compound (c) which is copolymerizable with trioxane.

5. (Amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the monofunctional glycidyl  
compound (b-1) is selected from the glycidyl ether compounds represented by the following

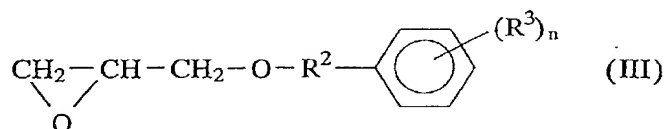
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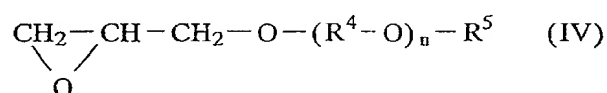
formulae (II), (III) and (IV):



wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-12}$  alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group or halogen; and  $n$  is an integer of 0 to 5 and, when  $n$  is 2 or more, the  $\text{R}^1$ 's may be the same or different:



wherein  $\text{R}^2$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-30}$  alkylene group, a substituted alkylene group or a polyalkylene oxide glycol residue;  $\text{R}^3$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-12}$  alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group or halogen; and  $n$  is an integer of 0 to 5 and, when  $n$  is 2 or more, the  $\text{R}^3$ 's may be the same or different:



wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-30}$  alkylene group;  $n$  is an integer of 0 to 20; and  $\text{R}^5$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-30}$  alkyl group, a  $\text{C}_{2-20}$  alkenyl group or an alkynyl group.

6. (Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the branched polyacetal copolymer (A) is prepared by a copolymerization of 100 parts by weight of trioxane (a), 0.001 to 10 parts by weight of a branch-formable cyclic formal compound (b-2), and 0 to 20 parts by weight of a cyclic ether compound (c) which is copolymerizable with trioxane.

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7. (Amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the branched polyacetal copolymer (A) indispensably comprises the cyclic ether compound (c) copolymerizable with trioxane and is a copolymerized product of 0.1 to 20 parts by weight of the compound (c) to 100 parts by weight of trioxane.

8. (Amended) The composition according to claim 3, wherein the cyclic ether compound (c) which is copolymerizable with trioxane is selected from the group consisting of ethylene oxide, 1,3-dioxolan, diethylene glycol formal and 1,4-butanediol formal.

9. (Amended) The composition according to claim 1, wherein the compound (B) having a polyalkylene ether unit as the main constituting component is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polytetramethylene glycol and a copolymer glycol having such a constituting unit.

#### REMARKS

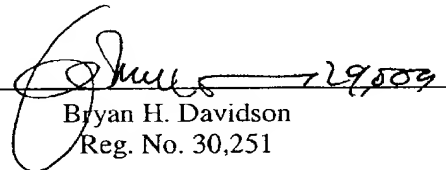
The above amendments are made to place the claims in a more traditional format.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Bryan H. Davidson  
Reg. No. 30,251

BHD:ms  
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201-4714  
Telephone: (703) 816-4000  
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

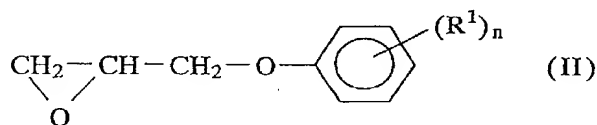
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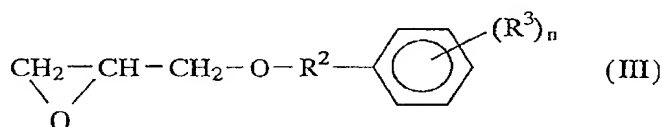
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS

3. (Amended) The composition according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the branched polyacetal copolymer (A) is prepared by a copolymerization of 100 parts by weight of trioxane (a), 0.001 to 10 parts by weight of a monofunctional glycidyl compound (b-1) and 0 to 20 parts by weight of a cyclic ether compound (c) which is copolymerizable with trioxane.

5. (Amended) The composition according to claim 3 [or 4], wherein the monofunctional glycidyl compound (b-1) is selected from the glycidyl ether compounds represented by the following formulae (II), (III) and (IV):



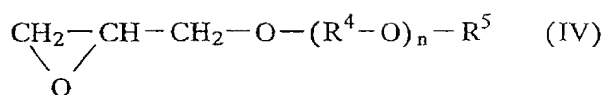
wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-12}$  alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group or halogen; and  $n$  is an integer of 0 to 5 and, when  $n$  is 2 or more, the  $\text{R}^1$ 's may be the same or different:



wherein  $\text{R}^2$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-30}$  alkylene group, a substituted alkylene group or a polyalkylene oxide glycol residue;  $\text{R}^3$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-12}$  alkyl group, a substituted alkyl group, an alkoxy group, an aryl group, a substituted aryl group or halogen; and  $n$  is an integer of 0 to 5 and, when  $n$  is 2 or more, the  $\text{R}^3$ 's may be the same or different:

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wherein  $\text{R}^4$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-30}$  alkylene group;  $n$  is an integer of 0 to 20; and  $\text{R}^5$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-30}$  alkyl group, a  $\text{C}_{2-20}$  alkenyl group or an alkynyl group.

6. (Amended) The composition according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein the branched polyacetal copolymer (A) is prepared by a copolymerization of 100 parts by weight of trioxane (a), 0.001 to 10 parts by weight of a branch-formable cyclic formal compound (b-2), and 0 to 20 parts by weight of a cyclic ether compound (c) which is copolymerizable with trioxane.

7. (Amended) The composition according to [any of claims 3 to 6] claim 3, wherein the branched polyacetal copolymer (A) indispensably comprises the cyclic ether compound (c) copolymerizable with trioxane and is a copolymerized product of 0.1 to 20 parts by weight of the compound (c) to 100 parts by weight of trioxane.

8. (Amended) The composition according to [any of claims 3 to 7] claim 3, wherein the cyclic ether compound (c) which is copolymerizable with trioxane is selected from the group consisting of ethylene oxide, 1,3-dioxolan, diethylene glycol formal and 1,4-butanediol formal.

9. (Amended) The composition according to [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the compound (B) having a polyalkylene ether unit as the main constituting component is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, polytetramethylene glycol and a copolymer glycol having such a constituting unit.